THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. State Government of Karnataka has requested for transfer of 102.287 acres of Defence land in Bangalore for Metro Rail Project.

(b) to (d) The detailed proposal from the State Government is awaited, thereafter a decision would be possible.

(e) Once the land is transferred, the utilization of the same will be the responsibility of the State Government.

Losses to Air Force due to Tsunami

1594. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent Tsunami waves have damaged and caused losses to the Air Force;

(b) if so, what was the total damage caused to Air Force base and total losses suffered by Air Force men;

(c) what steps are being considered to repair these damages; and

(d) what was the compensation paid to those Air Force men who lost their lives?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The extent of damage and the total estimated loss suffered by the Indian Air Force are as follows:—

(i) Damage to the buildings, electricity and water supply-Rs. 135 crores (preliminary estimate).

(ii) Loss of manpower:

Officers: 4 dead and 2 declared missing.

Airmen: 3 dead and 2 declared missing.

Civilian Personnel: 30 dead and 73 declared missing.

(c) Immediate necessary works have already been commenced to repair the damages especially to the runway, shelters, electricity and water supply on a fast track basis.

(d) An amount of Rs. 53,36,275/- has been paid to the Next of Kin of the deceased Air Force men from Air Force Group Insurance Society and Air Force Central Welfare Fund, which are regimental non-public funds.

Encroachment of Defence Land

†1595. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private parties and companies have occupied Defence land in Mumbai, Secunder, bad, Bareilly and Amritsar;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to take this land back in its possession; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Some of the Defence land are under unauthorized occupation of Private Parties in Secunderabad, Bareilly and Amritsar. However, there is no land under encroachment in Mumbai.

(b) Steps for removing these encroachment are taken by Competent Authority under the provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 and under the provisions of the Cantonments Act, 1924.

(c) Question does not arise.

Pensionary benefits to ex-servicemen

1596. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total service eligible for ex-servicemen to get the benefit of minimum pension;

(b) whether Government allow any minimum *ex-gratia* who are discharged before attaining 15 years on genuine grounds;

(c) whether Government propose to initiate any change in the pension rules for accommodating below 15 years category for minimum pension and other pensionery benefits enjoyed by others at present;

(d) whether Government have any proposal of granting *ex-gratia* pension to those ex-servicemen who put less than 10 years service; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.